

HOUSE RESOLUTION 218

By Bass

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Shaun Meadows for his meritorious service to this country.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Shaun Meadows of Lynnville is one such individual who, throughout his impressive military career as a member of the United States Air Force, served with unwavering dedication and fortitude, rising to meet all challenges in his path; and

WHEREAS, after joining the Air Force in 2002, Mr. Meadows endured three years of specialized training to become a Combat Control Operator in Special Forces; and

WHEREAS, with an undaunted sense of duty, he served two deployments, first in Iraq and Pakistan and again in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, while serving in Afghanistan, Shaun Meadows was the rear-gunner on a mission in the Uruzgan Province when his humvee ran over an improvised explosive device, which then detonated under his seat; and

WHEREAS, the blast resulted in the instantaneous amputation of both his legs; he was quickly evacuated to a nearby firebase and then to Bagram airbase, where officials could assess his injuries; and

WHEREAS, after a brief stay in Landstuhl, Germany, Mr. Meadows journeyed to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he would first learn his status as a

bilateral above-knee amputee and begin what would become a one-year rehabilitation process; and

WHEREAS, just three months after his surgery, Mr. Meadows was walking again, using prosthetic legs; in another three months, he was running an eight-minute mile; and

WHEREAS, Shaun Meadows medically retired from the Air Force on January 6, 2011, and moved to Lynnville with his wife, Nicole, who he met in the airmen leadership school at the McChord Air Force Base in Washington; and

WHEREAS, Nicole was serving a second deployment in Kyrgyzstan when she learned of her husband's injuries; she remained by his side as a non-medical attendant throughout his rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, thanks to Nicole's love and support and his own drive and determination, Shaun Meadows was able to recover from the experience and regain his mobility and independence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Meadows recently earned his fly-fishing guide certificate through Project Healing Waters and plans to pursue a new career in the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, having received an honorable discharge from the Air Force, Mrs. Meadows will soon graduate from the University of Tennessee with her Master of Science degree in Social Work; and

WHEREAS, Shaun Meadows's courageous service stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our Nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly recognize Shaun Meadows, commending his innumerable personal sacrifices to serve this country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Shaun Meadows from Lynnville for his meritorious service as a member of the United States Air Force, applaud his unwavering dedication to pursuing the highest ideals of

military service, and extend to him our sincerest gratitude and best wishes for all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.